

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Production at Zbrojovka Brno Factories

PLACE		25X1A
-------	--	-------

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

CD NO. 25X1A

DATE DISTR. 16 MAY 50

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U.S.C., 81 AND 82, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

25X1

1. The SKF (Svenska Kullager Fabriker) factory at Pernstein, near Kaden in northwestern Bohemia, was the property of a Swedish firm prior to its nationalization. At present it belongs to Zbrojovka Brno and is known as factory No. 28.
2. Factory No. 28 is located at Pernstein nad Ohri, about five minutes from the railroad station in the direction of the flow of the river. It employs approximately 500 persons, and Ing. Jan Froehlich is the plant director in over-all control. The plant was the only one in Czechoslovakia engaged in the manufacture of ball bearings. After nationalization, the Swedish owners removed their machines and left only those machines which had been purchased by the Germans during the war. As a result, the production of balls for bearings was halted completely, and now the factory produces only mountings for ball bearings and AB (sic) rings for axial and radial ball bearings.
3. The monthly productive capacity of the factory is 4,500 to 5,000 mountings for ball bearings in various sizes. Balls and rod steel were frequently delivered to the factory from Sweden, but these deliveries have been stopped. There are about two to three wagonloads of bearings on hand, and also a small stock of Swedish steel. If the production of mountings were to continue at the present rate, it would be possible to supply enough bearings for a period of seven to eight months.
4. Production by "automats" (machines requiring no workers) is proceeding fairly well, although an acute shortage of machine steel exists. Twelve "automats" are in operation; six are of the "Liehmann" type, one Russian ("Stankozavod"), and the remainder of German design.
5. The need for ball bearings is great, and an inadequate supply of them is causing serious disturbances in Czech industry. The factory is not producing enough ball bearings even to supply nationalized industries. A large quantity of ball bearings, which had been sent to Bata in Sazimova Usti, was returned because of faulty workmanship. Production suffers because the material used, which comes from Czechoslovakia itself, is of poor quality. Efforts are concentrated on fulfilling the plan rather than on maintaining quality. Although work with the grinding machines is the chief operation, there are not enough of these machines to keep pace with the polishers.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

DIS-

CONFIDENTIAL

**This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.**

Approved For Release 2003/12/22 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0004200650008-0

Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.

No Change ☒ ☐

☒ Declassified

Class. Changed To:

Auth: 70202

Date: 8 JUN 197

By

25X1

~~SECRET~~

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

6. Attempts are being made to produce ball bearings and valve (sic) bearings in the Zbrojovka factory at Lisne and radial bearings in the Zbrojovka Brno plant at Tynisti nad Orlici.
7. Zbrojovka Brno is constructing a large plant at Kysucke Nove Mesto, where they will produce all types of ball bearings. They are handicapped, however, by a shortage of molybdenum and vanadium, which were formerly obtained exclusively from the United States, and of special machinery.
8. The Poldina foundry at Kladno is supplying three-meter rods with a bend of 1.8 cms. The rods are defective and require repairing.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

25X1